

Child Care Home Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2012

Bureau Staff Present: Debbie Sampson and Melanie Brizzi

Guests Present: Jillian Ritter, Military Liaison and Shyla Lowe, employee of Regina Kinnett

Advisory Board Members Present: Coleen Land, Marci Graves, Jennifer Quartucci, Joey Scherschel, Karen Burnside-Strack, Noel Hanson, Lena Burns, Ginny Harman, Sabrina Harris, Regina Kinnett, Ranee Armstrong, Jennifer DeLucio, Tammy Dunn

Members Absent: Jaime Jones, Tamela Hunt, Heather Colglazier, Jennifer DeLucio, Rebecca Kenworthy, Stephanie McKinstry, Tracy Renfro, Maria Wynne

Old Business: Tammy made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17th. Sabrina seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: Joey introduced new members and asked them to say a few words about themselves. Ginny Harman in West Lafayette has been in business for 25 years. Jennifer Quartucci in Valparaiso has been in business for 7 years and previously taught Kindergarten in Illinois. Marci Graves in Bloomington has been in business for 11 years, 6 in home childcare and before that in a center.

Debbie Sampson informed us that the interpretive guidelines were emailed. If anyone wants a hardcopy just contact the Bureau.

The Bureau, IACCRA, IAAYC and PTQ are working on a Health & Safety checklist. They have found that as providers are doing better in planning curriculum, they are making mistakes in the basics; such as hand washing and diapering.

One provider had a problem with e-coli in which 5 children were hospitalized and it came down to diapering and gloves. So consultants and agencies will be focusing on addressing the basics and potential hazards when they come.

Debbie also informed us that we have new nurse consultants and Kim Berkemeier in Rush County joined the clerical staff. The Licensing consultants are the same.

Melanie Brizzi joined the meeting at this point and informed us that they were getting prepared for the Child Care Committee which has its first session on August 15th. There will be a link for people to watch on-line. Budget discussions should be the highlight. But at the 2nd or 3rd meeting to be announced she expects the Child Care Advisory Committees will have the opportunity to speak and enter testimony. Joey resigned as chairperson and the Bureau asked for volunteers to take over as chair. A discussion regarding the job responsibilities of the chairperson ensued. As no volunteers responded immediately Melanie suggested that we form a work group to discuss our goals for our upcoming testimony to the legislature. She suggested we make positive comments about what is working and express our concern about what's not in positive ways.

Noel expressed concern about ministries having no ratios to meet like centers and homes do and suggested we continue to express our concern about that.

Melanie commented that it has been brought up and should continue to be brought up that there is a disparity in the regulations that should be fixed to ensure that every child be entitled to and receive the

same quality of care.

At this point in the discussion Joey said that she would continue to chair if no one else wanted to, she just doesn't feel comfortable speaking in front of groups. Ginny offered to co-chair. The testimony should take place between August 15 and September 15th. The legislators generally hear 5-12 people testify each time they meet. Not all are about childcare.

Joey and Ginny agreed to form a group and then decide who speaks.

The focus group is to set up a meeting and discuss what it is we want to say as a group and what we feel our message should be. Quality indicators are something we can all agree on. And there was a discussion on stressing that we are not just baby sitters, but do so much more; including advocacy on behalf of children.

There was a discussion on school systems with pre-school programs and what it will do to home providers. The concern is that government programs take away parental choice and we should stress that all the systems; schools, ministries, homes and centers offer parents choice. In homes and centers they look for the PTQ indicators and schools will not offer that choice to parents.

Noel brought up the schools were hiring teachers for the pre-schools and taking work away from providers and choice from parents and yet is exempt from meeting the same requirements but gets funding. The schools are accredited and she fears parents will assume this means the pre-school is also accredited and they will not be.

Melanie said that approaching this is important because child care is education. She talked about busing and New York's successful program; and suggested that we bring up the point instead that we offer half days, full days, 2nd and 3rd shifts and the schools won't so it's important to keep all choices open for parents. We should stress that traditional child care should not get left out. She said if we can convey all that we do our testimony should be successful.

Marci began a discussion on our job title. She does not think that child care providers conveys or teachers conveys what we do.

Lena said that we need to be a part of any new title. We should have a voice in that.

Several members volunteered to be on the focus group at this point including Regina, Marci, Tammy, and Karen.

Melanie offered to set up the conference call for the meeting.

Ranee Armstrong joined the meeting at this point.

We discussed briefly that the meeting for the focus group be in the evening so we are not distracted from our children and can better think about goal setting. The first meeting was set up for July 31 at 6pm.

Regina Kinnett offered to take the chair position for the Advisory Board. She has two child care homes in Greendale (Dearborn Co near the Ohio border) with a staff of five, and is PTQ level two going on three. Non-licensed homes are a concern to her.

Ranee Armstrong suggested a permit be required for un-licensed child care and an inspection required yearly.

A motion was made by Joey to accept Regina's nomination for chairperson. It was seconded and the motion carried. Regina is our new chairperson.

Debbie said she would send out a new list of members to all since we have new members.

There was further discussion on a new title for providers and Family Support Educators was suggested. There was further discussion about un-licensed care.

There was more discussion on the goals for the focus group and on educating parents about what we do and why we are needed.

Other Business: none

A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.